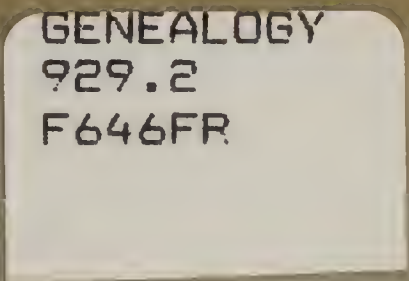


GEN

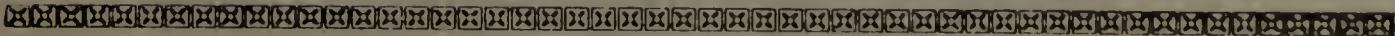


NOTES GENEALOGICAL

RELATING TO THE FAMILY OF ROBERT FLINT
AND JOHANNA, HIS WIFE, IN ALBANY, NEW
YORK, IN 1735, AND LATER IN THE REGION OF
THE MEETING OF PRESENT MONTGOMERY,
OTSEGO AND SCHOHARIE COUNTIES



Copyright 1927
By RALPH N. FLINT
Detroit, Michigan



INTERSTATE BRIEF & RECORD CO., BOYER BLDG., DETROIT

Detroit, Michigan.
May 5, 1927.

Mr. C. Ellis Flint,
352 Jackson Street,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

My dear Flint:

I have yours of April 23, 1927, and am glad to know one so much interested in Flint genealogy.

As you infer, I suppose myself to be a descendant of Alexander; the line backward being myself, aged 56, Abram, Robert, Abram, Alexander. Perhaps it should be Abraham, but my father always held to the spelling I use.

I became interested in earnest about 1904, although I have a few notes from my grandparents made twelve years earlier. I rode the hobby hard for ten or twelve years, but not so persistently after then; although I still retain my interest and gather in an item or two every little while.

My theory differs from that of some others, and differs somewhat from your own as you will see. I try to cite records, however, in support of my assertions; and will be glad indeed to be shown my error, if contrary conclusions can be established by better or equally good evidence.

I will give you three generations from Robert, the pioneer, as I believe them to be, although the data is scanty as to early members of the family. In fact, three only of those placed as his sons are definitely declared to be such in my records, and again, only three appear to have left wills; and one of these, that of Adam, is not entirely satisfactory.

I am taking the Robert Flint and Johanna (Susanna), his wife, as the record has it, mentioned in Munsell's Collections on the History of Albany, etc., as the common ancestors whose lines we trace. According to this authority Robert appears as an early inhabitant of Albany, and there in 1735 and 1737 his sons Adam and Alexander were baptized.

This Robert lived in Albany for a period not known, and the same authority has a reference in 1759 to the sale of the place in which he formerly lived. He was later in 1754 settled up between the Mohawk and Cherry Valley, upon his original homestead I suppose. Documents Relating to the Colonial History of New York, Vol. 7, p. 171. He made a deed which is of the greatest importance to us in our research, February 21, 1773, recorded December 5, 1799; and died around 1799 as implied in the proof of the deed. I understand there is a grave stone in the family cemetery on the farm now said to have been his homestead marked "R. F. 1798," which no doubt marks his grave. He appears as some sort of an alternate or substitute second lieutenant in colonial militia returns in 1760. This is about all the record data I know of relating to this first Robert.

Ancestry of Robert the Pioneer.

I see you have a roseate legend about the forefathers of this Robert, but which your informant fails to substantiate. I had precisely the same experience twenty-five years ago.

Back in 1679 one Benoni Flint was granted land in Southampton, N. Y. He married there June 10, 1675, Mary Browne, daughter of William Browne; and

straightway began to rear a family. He and his descendants remained in that eastern Long Island vicinity until after the revolution; but in 1790 the only Flint anywhere around there was one Mary.

Right in the same neighborhood all the time was a very much more distinguished Hand family. Both Flints and Hands were migratory, and some of the Hands moved up into Connecticut. I may say also that there are Connecticut Flints who do not seem to be of the various New England Flint families, as one would naturally expect them to be.

Josiah, son of Shamgar Hand, of Southampton, in a will dated February 4, 1738-9, proved March 30, 1739, leaves property to several children, among them his daughter Johanna Flint. You will remember that the name of Robert's wife is given in Albany Collections as Josanna (Susanna).

Was she Josiah Hand's daughter, and did Robert Flint emanate from the Long Island family? I do not know; but in the absence of anything better than tradition I am going to assume so. As to Robert's wife's Brouwer ancestry I wish simply to say that the Brouwers are mentioned very many times in early Albany and lower Mohawk Valley records; that in following this as I believe erroneous Brouwer lead I have read many books and records; and that I have failed to find any evidence even remotely suggesting the Brouwer ancestry. Robert may indeed be descended from some Captain Flint and from distinguished Virginia ancestors, and his good wife from some Brouwer ancestor; but until I am shown something better than tradition to substantiate such statements I am from

Missouri, and a long way up the state. Incidentally, and for what it is worth, there were Abraham Flints in Southampton vicinity, which name is uncommon in our line.

Authorities Upon Ancestry of Robert and His Wife.

For Josiah Hand's will, New York Wills in New York Historical Society Collections, 1894; and for matters relating generally to early Flint and Hand families in eastern Long Island, Documentary History of New York; Southampton, Easthampton, Southhold, Sag Harbor, and other Long Island town records; Howell's History of Southampton; Hedge's History of Easthampton; and other local histories of the vicinity.

The 1773 Deed.

The deed to which I have referred was made February 21, 1773, but was not recorded until December 5, 1799. It conveys land to the grantor's beloved son Cornelius; it provides for a money payment to his (Cornelius') sister, Elizabeth Boman; it reserves a road with gates, etc., for John and Alexander Flint; and it refers to Cornelius as being then in possession of the land granted by the deed.

The deed does not state definitely that John and Alexander are brothers of Cornelius and sons of the grantor; but to my mind it is a typical conveyance of land to a younger and probably the youngest son, the older ones having already been provided for. You will see from the deeds abstracted below that Robert, the son, acquired other land, and in fact much more land from apparently other sources, which may account for his name not appearing in the 1773 deed; and again, if Robert did in fact receive land from his father it may

have bordered upon the highway. Robert I believe to have been the eldest son, and land given to him by his father would naturally have been land having a highway frontage.

This deed was not recorded until 1799. Had it been recorded when made we would probably know nothing of it, as early Montgomery County records have been burned, as is too often the case in New York counties.

This deed was witnessed by Peter Boman and Danl. Cronin; and when it was offered for record in 1799 Robert Flint, Jr., swore that he was present when the deed was made, that he saw the grantor sign it, and that Robert, the grantor, and both the witnesses were dead; whereupon the deed was admitted for recording. The name of the witness is spelled Bowman in some places.

I think there is no doubt whatever but that this Robert, Jr., was a son of the pioneer, and is the Robert of the 1802 will. There were, to be sure, other Roberts in 1799, altogether too many of them for the comfort of the genealogist; but they were all much younger judging from the sum of available knowledge of them, mere boys in fact in 1773. The Robert of the 1802 will had a son Robert who was the one in the Revolution, and who was born in 1757, according to his own sworn statement in his pension papers, which I have seen and copied, as well also as by other almost equally good evidence. This Robert, grandson—if I am right—of the pioneer, is the only one of the revolutionary soldiers listed who applied for a pension.

The Robert, Jr., who proved the deed did not, to be sure, long survive his father, but I presume some lived long and some died younger than as now. You will

note that he had sons under twenty-one when he made his will in 1802; whereas Robert the pioneer lived twenty-five years after providing, as I think, for the youngest of his children in his 1773 deed; which I should have said mentions no wife.

Children of Robert the Pioneer.

Having referred to all that the record which I know of has in the nature of positive assertions declaring or implying that various individuals were children of Robert the pioneer, and having become somewhat acquainted with him from the record and more so from his 1773 deed; and having proved the approximate date of his death and perhaps located his grave, I think we may list the following as his sons; at least my available and authentic information would seem to place those listed as his sons.

1. Robert, Jr., whom I have already discussed, and whom I believe to have been the eldest son. I have no data as to his birth, but inasmuch as he had at least one son under twenty-one in 1802, he may have been born around about 1733. I admit I want to place him as the eldest son, named for his father; and I have considerable data which would seem to make him the most substantial of the Flints, except and perhaps not except his father, say along about 1780. Robert the pioneer must, I think, have been born around about 1705 to 1710.

2. Adam, born 1735, according to Munsell. There is, however, an Adam Flint tabulated in Colonial Militia Muster Rolls, 1760, as born in Albany, and whose age is listed as twenty. Therefore and if the muster roll means that he was 20 in 1760, he must have been born

in 1740. I do not attempt to explain further than that it seems clear that there was an Adam Flint who grew up, and who hailed from Albany. Incidentally, I may say that years ago I found both Robert and Adam Flint mentioned in original Sir Wm. Johnson Manuscripts at Albany. The Johnson papers lately published are not indexed as to names, so I cannot say whether these references are now in existence. I was told that some of these manuscripts were burned in the capital fire a few years ago, but do not know.

3. Alexander, born, according to Munsell, 1737, mentioned in the 1773 deed, and mentioned, I think, in other deeds listed below. There is, I am told, a stone on the old homestead marked "A. F. 1810," which may mark his grave.

4. John is, I think, well placed as a son by the 1773 deed, but I have no information or theory even as to his birth. A John Flint, which certainly seems to have been him, died say 1794, for letters of administration were issued to Robert Flint, Jr., January 23, 1795, as administrator of the estate of John Flint, deceased. As you will see, we have a little about this John, I think, in the deeds mentioned below.

5. Cornelius is certainly placed as a son by the 1773 deed, and as stated, I believe him to have been the youngest son. His will, that is I assume it to be his, is dated February 24, 1813, proved January 17, 1817. I think we may place his birth along around 1750, as the 1773 deed certainly suggests that he was then a young man. There is said to be a stone marked "C. F. 1817" in the family cemetery which, no doubt, marks his grave.

All the above fits in very well with the 1790 census records, which list Cornelius, John, Robert, Jr., and Alexander Flint right together on the census taker's list; and Robert and Adam Flint together and a little further on, on the same page.

I have been told that the births of all the children of Robert the pioneer are duly recorded in the records of St. Peter's Church in Albany. I have, however, written the church officers upon two occasions, fifteen years apart, and paid the charges made for searching the records; and was informed upon both occasions that no records of Flint births could be found. He who will produce an authentic record independent of Munsell, who, to be sure, is one of the very best of authorities, showing the birth of the pioneer's children, will do the greatest possible service for those seeking to establish this Flint line.

Third Generation.

Robert Flint's will, dated May 19, 1802, probate November 8, 1802, mentions wife Deborah; and children William, Joshua, George, Samuel, David, James, Robert, and Elizabeth.

James and, perhaps, other sons were under age, under twenty-one as I understand.

Deborah, executrix, and John Bowman and Charles Powell, executors. Witnesses, Samuel Cooper, Edward O. Dare and Charles Powell.

Joshua, George, Samuel and Robert removed to Wyoming County, New York, 1815, and thereafter, and considerable about them appears in histories of that and adjacent counties. Robert, the Revolutionary sol-

dier, born March 10, 1757, as per his affidavit in his pension papers; born Canajoharie, lived there until 1826, since then in Genesee and Allegheny Counties. His brother Samuel made an affidavit in the pension papers in support of Robert's allegations.

One Adam Flint made a will dated February 18, 1828, proved February 12, 1829, in which he mentions no wife; children, Adam, William, Susannah, Peggey, Elizabeth and Hannah. Robert Bowman, Peter Walrath, Jr., and Thomas Sammons Executors. Benjamin I. Sammons, Alvy Bowman and Charles Bowman, Witnesses.

All whom I know claiming descent from an Adam Flint claim it from Adam, the son of this third generation Adam, who had a large family; which makes me fear that some of the family of Adam, the son of the pioneer, are unknown to me; and in this particular connection I may say that I have data of Flints of about the age his children might have been, whom I am unable to place.

The will, of course, makes Adam ninety-four if born in 1735, and eighty-nine if he was a second child born in 1740, after the death in infancy of an earlier child of the same name. The answer, however, is that many of the Flints lived to a great age; Robert the pioneer, for example, and my own grandfather Robert, who lived to be ninety-three.

Although so far as I know Alexander Flint left no will, and I have not much by way of record evidence about him, I have always supposed Robert, Jacob, Martin and Abram to have been sons of his; with room for more if and when identified. This I had from my

grandfather and grandmother in 1890, and record evidence which I began to collect fifteen years later confirms in most instances the information they gave me long before I got the craze. I know nothing about the nine daughters; and by the way, where did you get your dope about Alexander? If from my 1904 communication nothing need be said, but if perchance you have it from an independent source, I very much wish you would tell me about it.

John Flint, as I said, died about 1794, and it is naturally difficult to find out much about his family. In fact, I can identify his children only to the extent indicated in the abstracts from deeds appearing below.

Cornelius Flint made a will dated February 24, 1813, proved January 17, 1817, in which he mentions a wife who was the stepmother of his son and principal devisee Peter; children, Peter, Isaac, Robert, Cornelius, Jr., Elizabeth Lee, and two slaves, both women. Son Peter, John Bauman and Noah Dodge executors; John Ferguson, John Van Wie, and Reuben Parkinson witnesses.

There is said to be a stone marked "C. F. 1817," and one adjacent marked "M. C. 1822, 63 Ys. 8 Mo." (Maria Clement, his wife) in the old family graveyard, which may mark the graves of Cornelius and of his wife. The descendants of Cornelius are numerous and may, perhaps, be placed more readily than those of the others, because they stayed nearer home; but there is, nevertheless, much authentic data about the descendants of Robert of the 1802 will, and of Adam (through his son Adam); and there are many, indeed very many, Flints of the vicinity whose places I do not know; this, of course, being particularly applicable to individuals

who may be assumed to be contemporaneous with the third generation from the pioneer.

Answering specifically your inquiry as to the Martin A. Flint will mentioned in your letter, there is nothing wrong with the spelling of the name in the certified copy of it that I have.

I believe this Martin to have been a son of Alexander, and to have been a comparatively young man. All his children were under twenty-one, and obviously considerably under twenty-one; as this one alone of all the Flint wills I have seen makes specific provision for the education of the children of the testator.

Fifteen years later Robert A. Flint in a deed dated August 11, 1829, in which reference is made to the estate of Martin A. Flint, deceased, and which he seems clearly to have acted as executor, conveys land to Isaac M. Flint. I think we are justified in assuming that the date of this deed marks approximately the coming of age of Isaac M. Flint.

The Robert Flint and Martin Flint who signed as witnesses to the Martin A. Flint will may have been sons of John Flint, as indicated by the brief reference to helpful deeds below. This would make them cousins of the testator, perhaps along about his own age. The Robert A. Flint and Jacob A. Flint, executors, we, of course, place as brothers of the testator, sons of Alexander, according to the present state of our information.

I have written you rather fully, and after a careful check up of my manuscript and printed data, because as a matter of course I wish to help you if I can; and

even more because in your seven years' search you must have unearthed much pertinent data, which I am in hopes you will let me have. I have not gone beyond three generations because the most difficult part of our research is to establish a line which will be invulnerable, as regards its basic members. Later interested ones can then use the basic material and add to it the particular lines in which they may be interested.

Another reason why I write carefully and at length is because I am going to have this printed, and send copies of it to a few others who have expressed interest in this Flint family and seem anxious to arrive at the truth concerning the line; as well as to those who in the future may be interested in the same direction. But this is, after all, in the nature of a call for help; for I well know that there may be important omissions, if not in fact actual errors in the line as I have outlined it herein.

I invite constructive criticism, and even more I ask for assistance, particularly as regards Flints who may be of the first three generations of Robert the pioneer, in order that we may establish a certain and enduring basis from which to proceed.

Flints in the Revolution

As you know, the standard New York authorities list Alexander, Cornelius, John and Robert as soldiers in the First Regiment Tryon County Militia; and Jonathan, Nathan and Nathaniel in other regiments.

Inasmuch as we have more Flints than we can place, and inasmuch as there are several families of Flints dating from long before our Robert the pioneer, I am

assuming for the present at least that these other New York Flints are not of our family.

You observe I mention no Adam. There was, however, an Adam Flind, Ensign, in this same regiment; and in the privates we have Alexander Flind followed immediately by Alexander Flint, and by the others of our family.

There are no others by the name of Flind in the New York lists; and there are none of that name listed in the 1790 census.

A dear old lady who wrote me in 1903 says that she has recently seen a distant relative, Levi Flint, aged 84; that his great grandfather was Robert (the pioneer), who had a son Adam in the Revolution; that that son Adam was his (Levi's) grandfather; that this grandfather was in the Revolution; and that he (Levi) has his grandfather's commission signed by Captain John Bowman.

She does not name Levi's father, but this Levy was a son of Adam, the second I have mentioned, as clearly shown by probate records which I have involving his father's will. All available evidence indicates that the second Adam was a son of the first, and the first a son of Robert the pioneer.

It seems to me that beyond question Flind is erroneous, and that the real name was Flint; and in view of the sum total mentioned, I believe Adam Flint to have been an officer in the regiment referred to.

Robert I have referred to; he was about twenty when his service began. Alexander, son of the pioneer, was upwards of forty in revolutionary times, but I believe

him to have been the soldier. Cornelius, son of the pioneer, was perhaps twenty-five at the time, and I believe him to have been the soldier listed. The John listed I believe also to have been a son of the pioneer, of an age between Alexander and Cornelius.

If this is so then Robert the pioneer had sons Adam, Alexander, John and Cornelius, and a grandson Robert in the regiment mentioned.

In explanation, perhaps, of the pension situation, you will note that Adam, John, Cornelius and Alexander were all dead by 1830; and will remember that it was not until after that that a law was passed giving pensions to all revolutionary soldiers. Robert, the youngest of them all, was then the only Flint soldier left.

One thing more which you probably know about. The Flint family lost on page 33 of the Genealogical Register of the Descendants of Thomas Flint, of Salem, Massachusetts, moved into the same general locality, and prospered and increased, and ten or more children grew up. Naturally they give the genealogist working a hundred and fifty years later considerable difficulty. I have, I suppose, nearly as much material about this other family as upon the family of Robert, and would have more except that I lay off when I come across one who seems likely to be a member of these Massachusetts Flints.

*Brief Reference to a Few of Many Early
Deeds, Mortgages, etc.*

Mortgage given by Elisha Flint, September 13, 1790.

Mortgage by Alexander Flint February 1, 1793; mentions road reserved for John Flint.

Mortgage by Robert Flint October 9, 1797; apparently a purchase money mortgage involving 150 acres. Most early Flint conveyances involved from 10 to 50 acres.

Deed March 19, 1806, Robert Flint and wife Margaret to Henry Bowman four acres formerly owned by John Flint, deceased.

Deed September 10, 1805, Martin Flint to Jacob A. Flint, four acres, part of land set out from the estate of his honored father, John Flint.

Deed May 18, 1829, John Flint to John A. Flint, eight acres in a subdivision made and consented to by the heirs of John Flint, deceased.

Deed April 19, 1810, Adam Flint to Adam Flint, Jr., fifteen acres, land belonging to Robert Flint, deceased. Was this Adam the one we have placed as a son of Robert the pioneer, and the one who made the 1828 will? I think so. The son Adam of this last one made a will dated July 10, 1851, and left numerous descendants; and probate proceedings concerning it place a large number of Flints, in later generations, of course.

Well, I guess this is enough. Let me hear from you.

Very truly yours,

RALPH N. FLINT,
1136 Hudson Avenue,
Detroit, Michigan.

The HF Group

Indiana Plant

070501 2 51 00



9/19/2006

